

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS - CALABRIA
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1. AS NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FORMAT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT DRAW TO A CLOSE IN ROME, MEANINGFUL TALKS ON RESOLUTION OF LENGTHY REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CRISES AMONG THEM CAMPANIA AND CALABRIA SHOULD GET UNDER WAY. IN CALABRIA WHERE THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN CRISIS FOR FOUR MONTHS, SEVERAL INTERESTING POSSIBLE GOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED AND A BIT OF IMAGINATIVE POLITICAL TERMINOLOGY WIELDED.

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2. THE DC WITH 17 OF 40 CALABRIA REGIONAL COUNCIL SEATS CANNOT FORM A GIUNTA WITHOUT SOCIALIST (6 SEATS) OR OTHER LAY PARTY SUPPORT. AT THE SAME TIME WITH THE PCI HOLDING JUST 10 REGIONAL COUNCIL SEATS, A LEFTIST GIUNTA IS NOT FEASIBLE. THE POLITICAL EXIGENCY, THEREFORE, IS FOR DC CONCESSIONS SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY THE PCI THAT A "STEP FORWARD " HAS OCCURED (IN ORDER TO INDUCE THE PSI AND OTHERS TO ONCE AGAIN JOIN THE DC ON THE GIUNTA) BUT NOT SO GREAT AS TO STRAIN DC
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UNITY OR INTRINSIC PARTY INTERESTS.
3. THE CALABRIAN DC (BASICALLY DOROTEO LED) HAS WAVERED REGARDING THE "TOLERABLE" DEGREE OF PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT BUT STOOD FIRM (WITH HELP FROM ROME) IN BARRING THE PCI FROM THE GIUNTA. PCI PARTICIPATION IN A CALABRIAN "EMERGENCY POLITICAL MAJORITY", I.E. A MAJORITY LIMITED IN TIME TO THE DURATION OF CALABRIA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS, IS APPARENTLY NO LONGER AN

ISSUE. AT ONE POINT THE DC AND OTHER "DEMOCRATIC ARC PARTIES" WERE ALSO SAID TO HAVE AGREED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "PROGRAM COMMITTEE". THIS GROUP WOULD ACT AS A "WATCH DOG" ENSURING PROPER GIUNTA EXECUTION OF THAT POLITICAL PROGRAM AGREED UPON BY ALL CONCERNED PARTIES. IN ADDITION IT WAS ALLEGEDLY AGREED THAT THE PCI WOULD CHAIR THIS PROGRAM COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF 3 MEMBERS EACH FROM DC

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AND PCI AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM BOTH PSI AND PSDI. BEYOND CONCESSIONS REGARDING THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, THE PCI IS PRESSING FOR A REDUCTION IN THE GIUNTA FROM 12 TO 9 MEMBERS, JUST AS IT HAS DONE IN CAMPANIA AND PERHAPS FOR THE SAME REASONS (SEE REFTEL).

4. THE FOREGOING STILL INCHOATE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN TERMED AN "INSTITUTIONAL COMPROMISE". DC REGIONAL SECRETARY PIETRAMALA CALLED THE PROPOSED "WATCH DOG" COMMITTEE A "SUPERGIUNTA" WHICH WOULD PARALLEL AND ERODE SUBSTANTIVE POWERS OF THE GIUNTA. DC INTERESTS ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT SERVED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMITTEE AND THE PARTY MAY ATTEMPT TO DELAY RESOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL CRISIS UNTIL THE PSI NATIONAL CONGRESS CAN PROVIDE REGIONAL SOCIALISTS WITH POLICY DIRECTION WHICH COULD OBTAIN THE NECESSITY OF SUCH TEMPORARY BUT TORTURED POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS. COLANTONIO.

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